

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12  
CCO-00 /088 W  
-----122455 151806Z /42

O R 151713Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1954  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: MOPS, IS, LE  
SUBJECT: INITIAL ISRAELI REACTIONS TO IDF OPERATION IN LEBANON

1. THAT THERE WOULD BE AN IDF OPERATION INTO LEBANON HAS BEEN A FOREGONE CONCLUSION SINCE SATURDAY'S TERRORIST ATTACK. NOW THE QUESTIONS AS TO ITS TIMING, FORM, AND DIMENSIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED. LITTLE SURPRISE IS EXPRESSED HERE OVER THESE ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION BUT ISRAELIS ARE UNCERTAIN OVER THEIR GOVERNMENT'S LONGER-TERM INTENTIONS. THERE IS SOME INEVITABLE QUESTIONING, FOR EXAMPLE, WHETHER IT IS WISE FOR BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON WHILE PART OF LEBANON IS UNDER IDF OCCUPATION. TODAY'S WEIZMAN-GUR

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PRESS CONFERENCE TOLD THE PUBLIC LITTLE ABOUT LONGER TERM AIMS AND NOTHING ABOUT ANTICIPATED POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS.

2. GOVERNMENT (AND IDF) SPOKESMEN HAVE TAKEN PAINS TO DESCRIBE THE IDF STRIKE AS A WAR OPERATION AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY IN CONTRAST TO PRESS REFERENCES

TO RETALIATORY MEASURES AND REPRISAL RAIDS. HOWEVER IT IS DEFINED, THE MOVE INTO LEBANON HAS THE FULL AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC. SOMETHING APPROACHING A WAR FEVER HAD DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS AND THERE WAS A CATHARTIC SENSE OF RELIEF AND PRIDE ACCOMPANYING THE FIRST MOVEMENTS OF INFANTRY AND ARMOR INTO LEBANON LAST NIGHT. NOR SHOULD ANYONE EXPECT TO HEAR TOO MUCH GRIEF FROM ISRAELIS ABOUT ANY LOSS OF INNOCENT LIFE AFTER LAST SATURDAY'S OUTRAGE. THE OPPOSITION HAS RALLIED FIRMLY BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT. FORMER FONMIN ALLON, A LEADING OPPOSITION FIGURE, ON RADIO TODAY EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION, STATING THAT ITS TIMING WAS PERFECT AND ITS DEMENSIONS APPROPRIATE.

3. THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT SYRIA WILL BECOME INVOLVED IN A BIG WAY BUT MOST CONSIDER IT DOUBTFUL AND SAY THAT SYRIA WOULD PREFER TO CHOOSE ITS OWN TIME AND PLACE FOR ANY MAJOR ALTERCATION. WHILE IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE LITTLE THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN TO IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PEACE PROCESS, ALLON STATED THE VIEWS OF MANY WHEN HE DECLARED THAT THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE A TEST OF EGYPT'S TRUE INTENTIONS. IF EGYPT'S GOAL IS PEACE, AN ISRAELI STRIKE AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY SHOULD NOT DEFLECT IT FROM THE COURSE.

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4. BEGIN WILL RECEIVE CREDIT FOR DECISIVE AND POPULAR ACTION AND HIS STOCK WITH THE PUBLIC SHOULD RISE ACCORDINGLY. HOW LONGSTANDING THIS EFFECT WILL BE IS UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT.

VIETS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY EXERCISES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV03541  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780115-0640  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
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**Message ID:** 53384bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INITIAL ISRAELI REACTIONS TO IDF OPERATION IN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** MOPS, IS, LE, IDF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014